DEAR MR. THOMPSON AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD:

THIS HAS BEEN THE MOST WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS I HAVE HAD IN MANY YEARS. I THOUGHT I WAS TAKING A VACATION, BUT I FOUND TEXAS SO BEAUTIFUL WITH HIBISCUS THAT I BECAME SO INVOLVED GOING FROM PLACE TO PLACE I FORGOT I WAS TIRED.

ARRIVED IN HOUSTON DECEMBER 12TH AT ONE O'CLOCK AND STARTED CALLING HIBISCUS FOLKS. I FOUND VERY FEW AT HOME, BUT DID ENJOY TALKING TO MR. FINK AT TEAS NURSERY, THE TWO MR. TEAS WERE AWAY AT THE TIME I CALLED.

CHARLIE AND I ARRIVED IN MATAGORA ABOUT FIVE O'CLOCK AND AFTER A FEW DAYS WITH OUR FRIENDS WE ALL TOOK OFF FOR SOUTHERN PARTS OF TEXAS. OUR FIRST STOP WAS CORPUS CHRISTI. MY FIRST CALL WAS TO MR. ROBERT M. CURRIE (CURRIE SEED COMPANY AND NURSERY) AND FOUND HIM OUT OF THE CITY, BUT MR. WRIGHT TOOK US OVER THE NURSERY AND SPENT QUITE SOMETIME SHOWING US THE MANY HIBISCUS PLANTS. I CALLED MR. EDWIN F. FLATO, 316 S. BROADWAY AND HE CAME RIGHT OVER TO THE NURSERY AND TOOK OUR FRIENDS, MR. & MRS. GIBSON, CHARLIE AND ME TO HIS HOME TO SHOW US HIS HIBISCUS. THIS WAS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL GARDEN WITH ALL THE TROPICAL PLANTS YOU CAN THINK OF WE HAVE IN FLORIDA. MR. & MRS. FLATO HAVE BEEN LIVING IN THIS GARDEN FOR FORTY-EIGHT YEARS. WE DROVE IN AND BEFORE MY EYES WERE THESE LOVELY HIBISCUS BUSHES HIGHER THAN MY HEAD WITH MANY BLOOMS TO GREET US. THE HIBISCUS BEING PRESENTED TO THE AMERICAN HIBISCUS SOCIETY FOR REGISTRATION "EDWIN F. FLATO" WAS A MASS OF BLOOMS AND ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL DOUBLES; ANOTHER ONE "DR. HUDSON" ALMOST AS BEAUTIFUL. MR. FLATO MADE HIS OWN CROSSES AND PLANTED THEM FROM SEED, THE FOLIAGE ON "EDWIN F. FLATO" REMINDED ME A LOT OF MR. DEWEY'S MOTHER'S DAY AND THE "DR. HUDSON" REMINDED ME A LOT OF ROSS ESTEY. THE TWO

PLANTS ARE OVER FIVE YEARS OLD AND BEAUTIFUL BRANCHES FROM TOP TO BOTTOM. I FOUND SOME THAT I WAS NOT FAMILIAR WITH AS I EXPECTED TO FIND, BUT NOT TOO MANY. OUR NEXT STOP WAS TO VISIT WITH MR. N. A. AUSTIN OF TROPICAL NURSERY, 137 LIMON DRIVE. MR. AUSTIN WAS AWAY, BUT I TALKED TO HIS FATHER AND MR. DON BARTON, SUPERINTENDENT OF THE NURSERY. HE WAS MOST GENEROUS WITH HIS TIME AND GAVE ME ADDRESSES OF OTHER NURSERIES ALONG THE WAY, WHICH I WILL TELL YOU ABOUT LATER.

THANKS TO MR. & MRS. FLATO FOR DRIVING US OUT TO TROPICAL NURSERY - WE WOULD HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR THE NURSERY FOR WEEKS.

OUR THANKS TO MR. E. L. TANNEHILL, 4417 DINN, CORPUS CHRISTI, FOR HIS GREAT INTEREST IN THE A.H.S. AND THE NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS RECEIVED.

OUR NEXT TOWN WAS BROWNSVILLE, AND MY FIRST CALL WAS TO DR. & MRS. JOHN D. CARROLL 2104 PALM BOULEVARD. CHARLIE AND I VISITED IN THE HOME OF DR. & MRS. CARROLL ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON AND THEY HAD CALLED ALL THE OTHER MEMBERS IN BROWNSVILLE TO MEET US. MRS. J.B. KEE (MY GARDEN CLUB FRIEND) WAS OUT OF THE CITY, BUT MR. ROBERT A. RUNYON, BOX 11 (PO) VISITED WITH US AND BY THE WAY, HE IS POSTMASTER IN BROWNSVILLE, EXPLAINING THAT HE HAD SPENT VERY LITTLE TIME IN HIS YARD FOR THE PAST SIX WEEKS. I WONDER WHY??? WE HAD COFFEE WITH DR. & MRS. CARROLL AND BROWSED THROUGH THEIR LOVELY GARDEN OF SEEDLINGS FOR HOURS. DR. CARROLL HAS NAMED ONE OF HIS BEAUTIFUL SEEDLINGS AFTER MRS. CARROLL AND WAS DISAPPOINTED THAT HE ONLY HAD ONE TWO DAY OLD BLOOM TO SHOW ME. IT WAS LOVELY AND THE COLORS WERE DEEP AND RICH NOT THE LEAST BIT FADED. THIS HIBISCUS BUSH WAS AS HIGH AS THE ROOF OF THEIR HOME AND FOUR OF US COULD NOT REACH AROUND IT. THE CARROLLS ALSO RAISE BIRDS AND IT WAS SO MUCH FUN BEING WITH THE FLOWERS ALL AROUND AND THE BIRDS